

'Use scientific analysis to rebut claims'

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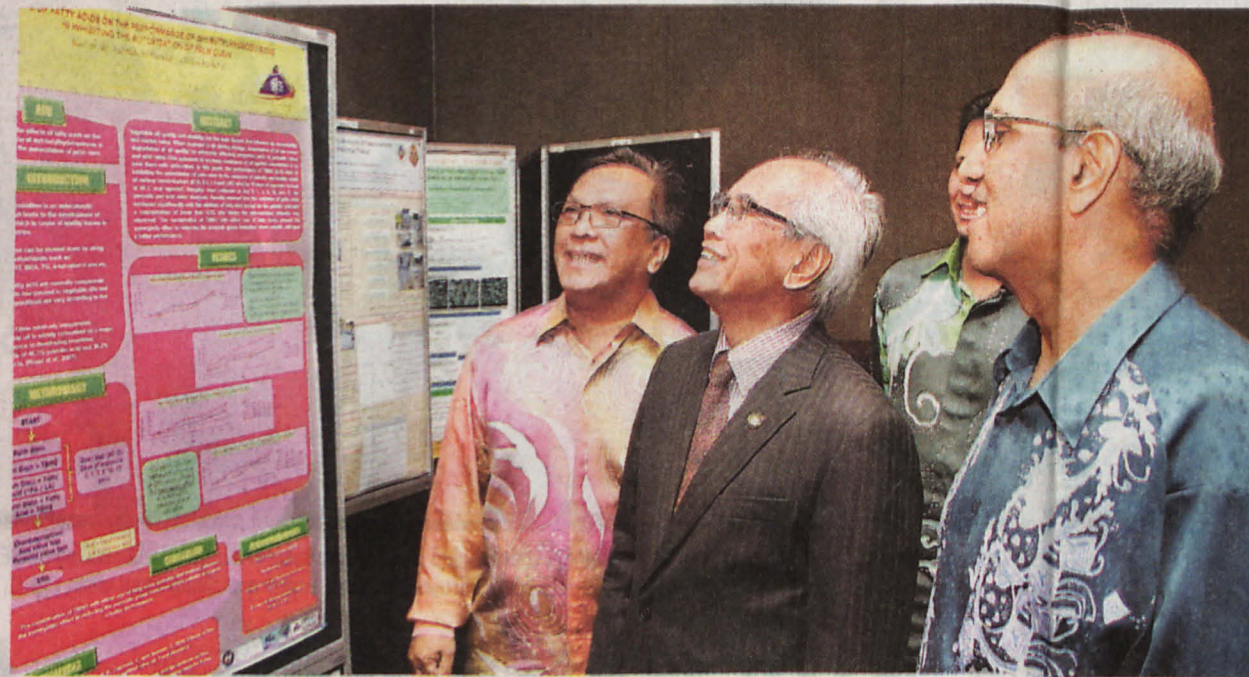
KUCHING: Local researchers are urged to use research and scientific analysis to rebut claims made by non-government organisations (NGOs), especially on palm oil.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu gave this reminder at a dinner of the 26th Regional Symposium of Malaysia Analytical Sciences here on Wednesday.

"We must fight these irresponsible and negative NGOs. We have to beat them with facts, based on analysis and chemical findings of the positive values of our products," he said.

He said that in the past, scientific research had helped to vindicate claims against palm oil made by certain industry lobbyists.

"For every one hectare planted with oil palm which can produce about four tonnes of crude palm oil, it takes four to 10 hectares to produce rapeseed, canola, sunflower, and soya bean oil. They require more land to produce the



INFORMATIVE: Jabu (second left) taking a closer look at some of the posters on display at the symposium. Also seen at left is Mohamad Kadim. — Photo by Chimon Upon

same amount of oil.

"Therefore, the condemnation by lobbyists to say we are destroying our biodiversity is not true because when you utilise

a lot more landmass you are destroying a lot more biodiversity, whereas here in Malaysia, we are very efficient utilizers of our land," said Jabu.

He told the symposium participants not to be apologetic for their research findings and that the state government dared to stand by the fact that the

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advancements in science speak louder than any attempts by negative NGOs to discredit the state government.

Vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Prof Dato Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi, meanwhile reminded the symposium participants that it was their responsibility to ensure that their research was well planned and that it effectively utilized resources and considered the conservation aspects.

He urged them to make use of the symposium to hold discussions to find effective solutions to identified problems.

"Your opinions on the latest studies and discussions which will be held throughout this symposium will result in comprehensive ways to complete and strengthen research in the

field of analytical sciences.

"The network of cooperation between researchers in public and private higher education institutes as well as industry must be made stronger for the sake of more systematic education and also to commercialise research findings," he said.

Meanwhile, the president of Malaysia Analytical Sciences Society (ANALIS) Associate Prof Dr Zaini Hamzah said that he was pleased to see a healthy turnout of younger members taking part in this year's symposium.

The symposium was organised by Unimas' Faculty of Resource Science and Technology in cooperation with ANALIS.

This is the second time Unimas is hosting the event, the last being 10 years ago.